

of so many publications of the proceedings of International Congresses, not all the papers are of comparable quality. The great variety of topics covered necessitates that some of the topics are presented less extensively than others. Furthermore, six of the papers are in French, and some of the translations are inadequate. Nonetheless, the text represents the most recent work of the very best investigators in this field and is to be highly recommended. Indeed, all scientists active in the broad field of Immunology will find this text of value.

EUGENE V. BARNETT, M.D.

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RADIOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION IN BLUNT ABDOMINAL TRAUMA—James J. McCort, M.D., Director of Radiology, Santa Clara County Hospital, San Jose, Calif.; Clinical Associate Professor of Radiology, Stanford University Medical School, Palo Alto, Calif. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1966. 252 pages, \$10.50.

James McCort has produced a splendidly readable work on blunt abdominal trauma. His style is enviably spare and concise. A logical, orderly exposition of methods of radiographic study and general findings in hemorrhage and trauma is followed by separate chapters on lacerations of the spleen, liver, mesentery, intestinal tract, pancreas, diaphragm, kidney and ureter, bladder, urethra and retroperitoneal hemorrhage. The role of angiography is well shown, as are other special procedures. These include radioisotope scanning, pneumoperitoneum, and intraperitoneal instillation of diatrizoate. The publisher may share praise for top quality reproductions of the radiographs, which successfully depict some subtle changes of importance. The book should be of interest and value to general surgeons and urologists as well as radiologists.

ROBERT B. ENGLE, M.D.

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HERNIA—Lloyd M. Nyhus, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor, Department of Surgery, and Henry N. Harkins, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.S., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Editors. Foreword by Sir John Bruce, C.B.E., T.D., M.B., Ch.B. (Ed.), F.R.C.S. (Ed.), Hon. F.R.C.S. (Eng.), Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and Montreal, 1964. 836 pages, \$28.50.

During the ten years immediately preceding this very large book on hernias of all types, the senior editors helped to develop and popularize the preperitoneal approach for groin hernias. Presumably it was as a result of their experiences with this relatively new surgical approach, that they were inspired to assemble the various contributors to the subject of hernia generally. The first 314 pages are devoted exclusively to groin hernia, and if there is a valid criticism of the entire work, it is in this section where the editors' bias is so apparent. The Bassini operation, for example, gets no attention other than passing mention, while the preperitoneal approach is lavishly praised. Despite chapters on the Halsted I, the Cooper's ligament repair, and other anterior approaches, Dr. Harkins summarizes the entire groin section by stating that "the conventional anterior approach to hernioplasty might even be compared to the birth deliveries of the Middle Ages performed under a modesty blanket." In view of other recent reports of a high recurrence rate in direct inguinal hernias by this approach, this reviewer is not at all certain that the more conventional anterior approaches deserve this criticism. On the other hand, the lengthy anatomical dissertation on the anatomy of the groin and the preperitoneal operation should inspire others, as it did the reviewer, to try the new approach. Not only is it a unique experience, but it almost certainly will prove to be a useful tech-

nique to all surgeons using it under certain circumstances.

Despite this criticism, the book is generally stimulating and informative. Drs. Nyhus and Harkins have assembled an extremely distinguished group of contributors, most of whom are widely known experts on the topics they write about. After each chapter there is an editorial comment, and other special comments by other authorities who stress certain points already made, or raise others pertinent to the subject. This particular manner of presentation, directed as it is toward experienced surgeons rather than medical students, only serves to make each chapter more interesting, and to the reviewer at least, enhances the value of the book considerably.

Other sections besides groin hernias include ventral hernia, diaphragmatic hernia, internal hernia, pelvic hernia, general aids to repair, and finally miscellaneous considerations. Literally no subject concerning hernia is too small to receive attention. There are chapters on sciatic hernia, Spigelian hernia, hernias in the young, hernias in the aged. The use of the various prosthetic materials including fascia lata grafts, nylon, tantalum, and marlex mesh are all thoroughly covered. Chapters entitled "Medico-legal aspects of hernia," "Industrial hernia," and "Anesthesia for hernia repair" illustrate the broad coverage accorded every aspect of hernia repair.

The just under 200 pages devoted to diaphragmatic hernia repair make that subject the second most thoroughly explored area in the book. All of the controversial aspects of the subject—the physiology of the so called lower esophageal sphincter, the various approaches for repair, and the diverse operations including even gastropexy and fundoplication are covered.

The reviewer considers this entire volume an outstanding contribution to the surgical literature, and would recommend it to every surgeon performing hernia repairs.

FREDRICK W. MARX, JR., M.D.

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TODAY'S HEALTH GUIDE—A Manual of Health Information and Guidance for the American Family—Edited by W. W. Bauer, M.D. Published by the American Medical Association, Chicago, Illinois, 1965. 624 pages, \$5.95.

The AMA's new health manual, *Today's Health Guide*, is neither an "old-fashioned" doctor's book nor a true encyclopedia. It is a gathering of selected topics, condensed from the enormous mass of knowledge about health which the editors and authors believe will be most useful to the average American.

Divided into 15 parts, it covers *The Home as a Health Center*, *Health and Your Family*, *The Wonderful Human Body*, *Safeguarding Your Health*, *Mental and Emotional Health*, *Recreation and Relaxation*, *Safety*, *Medical Services for the Family*, *When You Need a Doctor*, *Dangerous and Disabling Diseases*, *Surgery Today*, *The Proper Use of Drugs*, *Physical Handicaps*, *Community Health*, and *Keeping Posted* on medical history, progress and folk lore.

Such a book, which tries to be all things to all people, necessarily is limited in how much it can offer to anyone. Many of the chapters are written for doctor consumption and others in such fashion that doctors will understand them better than the public. All in all, however, it is a fine effort. There is good, understandable advice on everything from Emergency First Aid to Home Nursing Care, from sex education to calories.

Physicians will do well to follow the AMA's recommendation and keep a copy in their reception rooms, as well as urge their patients to buy it.

EDGAR WAYBURN, M.D.